

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Christopher Covelli, Lieutenant
Public Information Officer
Desk: 847.377.4180
Fax: 847.984.5738
Date: March 4, 2021



25 S. Martin Luther King Jr., Ave
Waukegan, Illinois 60087

www.lakecountyil.gov/sheriff

John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Update 2: Second Arrest Made in Double Homicide

Although one arrest was made in January, Lake County Sheriff's Detectives continued their investigation into the double homicide of Carlos Rodas Perez and Mercedes Rodas. Further information and evidence led sheriff's detectives to determining Derenell D. Hill, 35, of the 1700 block of Runyard Place, Waukegan, was involved in the double homicide.

Hill was taken into custody on March 3, 2021, in the 200 block of Julian Street, Waukegan at approximately 11:45 a.m. by Waukegan Police for driving with a revoked driver's license.

Yesterday, members of the Gurnee Police Department conducted a search warrant at an apartment Hill has recently been staying at, in the 200 block of Julian Street, regarding an ongoing investigation they are working. While conducting their search warrant, Gurnee Detectives located a firearm belonging to Carlos Rodas Perez, which was stolen during the double homicide.

Yesterday afternoon, Lake County Sheriff's Detectives presented all of the facts and evidence to the Lake County State's Attorney's Office who approved an arrest warrant for Hill for two counts of first degree murder. A Lake County Judge then approved the arrest warrant and set a bail of \$10,000,000.00.

Hill was transported to the Lake County Jail in the evening on March 3rd. This morning, Hill appeared in court for an initial hearing where his updated bond was set at \$5,000,000.00. He remains held in the Lake County Jail and is next due in court on March 23, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "Now that both individuals responsible for these heinous murders are in custody, it is our hope the family of the victims can take the first steps in the healing process. We will always do everything in our power to seek justice for the victims of crime and this is an example of our detectives doing just that, by pressing forward to ensure everyone responsible was held accountable. We are grateful for the assistance we received from

both the Waukegan Police Department and Gurnee Police Department.”

Lake County State’s Attorney Eric Rinehart said Thursday that some of his top prosecutors would continue their work on the case. “This calculated and brutal murder has been a top priority for the sheriff and I. And it will continue to be a priority from now until we achieve justice for the victims and their family.” State’s Attorney Rinehart said.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Update 1: Arrest Made in Double Homicide (issued 1/13/21)

Following a thorough investigation by the Lake County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division, an arrest was made in the December double homicide which occurred in Beach Park. On January 12, 2021, sheriff’s detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Timothy D. Triplett, Jr., 34, of the 2100 block of Georgetown Lane, Waukegan. The arrest warrant was for two counts of first degree murder in the homicide of Carlos Rodas Perez and Mercedes Rodas.

On January 13, 2021, members of the sheriff’s office arrested Triplett at his home without incident. Triplett remains held in the Lake County Jail on \$5,000,000.00 bail and is due in court for an initial hearing this afternoon.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, “Two lives were violently and senselessly lost last month at the hands of another. I am very proud of our detectives for their relentless pursuit seeking justice for a husband and wife who were murdered. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims.”

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Beach Park Death Investigation (issued 12/9/20)

On December 8, 2020, at approximately 9:40PM, Lake County Sheriff’s Deputies were dispatched to a residence in the 10000 block of West Wadsworth Road, Beach Park, for a report of a person down. Sheriff’s deputies arrived and located a 49-year-old female and a 52-year-old male in the garage of the residence. Both appeared to have gunshot wounds.

Sheriff’s deputies attempted life-saving measures, however they were unsuccessful. Both subjects were subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene.

Sheriff’s detectives responded to the scene and are conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident.

The Lake County Coroner’s Office responded to the scene and an autopsy on both individuals has been scheduled for Thursday.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to call sheriff’s detectives at 847-377-4000 or make an anonymous tip at: <http://www.lakecountycrimestoppers.com/>

This incident remains under investigation by the Lake County Sheriff’s Criminal Investigations Division.

###